

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks herein.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1–7 and 9–21 will be pending. By this amendment, claims 1 and 9 have been amended, and claims 20–21 have been added. No new matter has been added.

§103 Rejection of Claims 1–7, 9–15 and 18–19

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1–7, 9–15 and 18–19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Koyama *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,112,010; hereinafter referred to as “Koyama”) in view of Toriumi (U.S. Patent No. 6,062,868).

In the Background section of the Specification, it was disclosed that various optical media accommodated by a disc changer typically contain a jacket picture descriptive of the contents. That is, “a DVD video disc ... conventionally available has an area for a jacket picture as well as an area for video contents data. On the other hand, with a CD ... and a CD extra disc, audio data and video data can be recorded thereon. Thus a reproducing apparatus for a DVD video disc, a CD video disc, and/or a CD extra disc can display one still picture recorded on a disc on a displaying unit.” *Specification, page 1, lines 9–17.* (emphasis added) Further, “a disc changer having many disc slots is known. With the disc changer, the user can select one of discs accommodated in the disc slots and causes the disc changer to reproduce contents data from the selected disc. With the disc changer, a disc is selected by directly designating a slot number corresponding to a desired disc.” *Specification, page 1, lines 18–24.* “However, when the user directly designates his or her desired disc, since the amount of information provided to the user is

insufficient, it is difficult for him or her to select his or her desired disc from many discs.

[W]hen the user can manage the discs accommodated in the disc changer and search his or her desired disc therefrom using picture information correlated with the discs, it is expected to improve the visibility and operability of the disc changer. To accomplish [this], it is necessary to simultaneously display a plurality of index still pictures such as jacket pictures on the screen of the displaying unit. *Specification, page 2, lines 1–15.* When picture contents are reproduced from optical discs having different formats, their picture frame sizes are different.” Moreover, “[e]ven if the types of optical discs are the same, their picture frame sizes vary corresponding to television systems.” *Specification, page 2, lines 20–24.* That is, where a user wishes to select from dissimilar optical media accommodated by a disc changer, the act of selecting is made more efficient when the user may refer to a representative index picture corresponding to each optical disc instead of a mere slot number.

To address the problem stated above, embodiments of the present invention provide apparatus and methods “that allow a plurality of index pictures to be simultaneously displayed, the displayed index pictures to be operated without a deterioration of the picture quality, index pictures of different size to be simultaneously displayed, and the operations of displaying index pictures to be simplified.” *Specification, page 3, lines 5–10.*

For example, apparatus claim 1, as presented herein, includes:

A reproducing apparatus for receiving contents data from a record medium or a transmission, the reproducing apparatus comprising:

contents data receiving means for receiving different contents data recorded on different record media respectively, said different record media including a plurality of optical media types;

index picture generating means for retrieving a picture frame from the contents data, and generating an index picture, wherein the picture frame size of the index picture is smaller than the picture frame size of the contents data;

selecting means for selecting an output type of the index picture for a display device;

picture processing means for processing the index picture data according to the output type selected by said selecting means; and

display means for displaying on the display device the index picture formed by said picture processing means;

wherein index pictures generated from different contents data which have different respective formats and are received from different record media respectively can be displayed together in respective picture frames having the same picture frame size, and

wherein record media information which represents the record media type including the optical media type is also displayed corresponding to index pictures retrieved from respective record media. (emphasis added)

Accordingly, one aspect of claim 1 includes at least a *contents data receiving means* for receiving different contents data recorded on different record media respectively, the different record media including a plurality of optical media types, wherein record media information which represents the record media type including the optical media type is also displayed corresponding to index pictures retrieved from respective record media. The Specification states, “Fig. 1 shows an outline of the overall structure of a disc changer according to the embodiment of the present invention.” *Specification, page 6, lines 21–23.* (emphasis added) *See also Fig. 1.* “The disc 1 is an optical disc such as a DVD video disc, a CD, or a video CD.” *Specification, page 6, lines 24–25.* (emphasis added) Further, “[t]he disc accommodating portion 2 has many numbered-slots that accommodate discs (for example, DVDs) one by one.” *Specification page 6,*

line 26 to page 7, line 2. Furthermore, “the disc changer can reproduce contents data from a CD, a CD extra disc, a CD-ROM, and so forth as well as a DVD video disc.” *Specification, page 9, lines 6–8.* (emphasis added)

In contrast, Koyama fails to teach or suggest receiving different contents data recorded on different record media respectively, the different record media including a plurality of optical media types, wherein record media information which represents the record media type including the optical media type is also displayed corresponding to index pictures retrieved from respective record media. Koyama, instead, discloses only receiving analog composite video. That is, “video signals of three formats of composite video signals ... can be inputted thereto.” *Koyama, Col. 15, lines 37–41.* It is well known in the art that composite video is analog. Because Koyama does not disclose different record media including a plurality of optical media types, wherein record media information which represents the record media type including the optical media type is also displayed corresponding to index pictures retrieved from respective record media, Koyama therefore fails to address all the limitations of claim 1.

As to Toriumi, the Office Action states, “Toriumi discloses a data transmitting system wherein recorded information is displayed.” *Office Action, page 3, line 19.* Even assuming that Toriumi teaches a display of recorded information, Toriumi fails to teach or suggest receiving different contents data recorded on different record media respectively, the different record media including a plurality of optical media types, wherein record media information which represents the record media type including the optical media type is also displayed corresponding to index pictures retrieved from respective record media. Therefore, since claim 1 should be allowable over Koyama as discussed above, Koyama and Toriumi, individually or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all the limitations of claim 1.

Based on the foregoing discussion, claim 1 should be allowable over Koyama and Toriumi. Since independent claim 9 parallels claim 1 and recites similar limitations as recited therein, claim 9 should also be allowable over Koyama and Toriumi. Further, since claims 2–7, 10–15 and 18–19 depend from one of claims 1 and 9, claims 2–7, 10–15 and 18–19 should also be allowable over Koyama and Toriumi.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 1–7, 9–15 and 18–19 based upon 35 U.S.C. §103(a) has been overcome by the present remarks and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

§103 Rejection of Claims 16–17

On page 6 of the Office Action, claims 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Koyama in view of Toriumi in further view of Hoshi (U.S. Patent No. 5,943,102).

Based on the foregoing discussion regarding independent claims 1 and 9, and since claims 16 and 17 depend respectively from claims 1 and 9, claims 16 and 17 should also be allowable over Koyama and Toriumi. Hoshi was cited merely for disclosing that the information to be displayed has various display modes that can be selected, such as NTSC/PAL. Therefore, since claims 16 and 17 should be allowable over Koyama and Toriumi as discussed above, Koyama, Toriumi and Hoshi, individually or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all the limitations of claims 16 and 17.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 16 and 17 based upon 35 U.S.C. §103(a) have been overcome by the present remarks and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

New Claims 20 and 21

Claims 20 and 21 are newly presented by this amendment and depend from independent claims 1 and 9, respectively. Based on the foregoing discussion regarding independent claims 1 and 9, and since claims 20 and 21 depend from claims 1 and 9, claims 20 and 21 should also be allowable over the cited prior art reference.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, entry of this amendment and the allowance of this application with claims 1–7 and 9–21 are respectfully solicited.

With regard to the claims amended herein and throughout the prosecution of this application, it is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes that have been made to these claims were not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes were made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

In the event that additional cooperation in this case may be helpful to complete its prosecution, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number written below.

PATENT

Appl. No. 09/575,858

Attorney Docket No. 450100-02472

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Lee", is written over a horizontal line.

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